

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
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T.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: US IS EG XF
SUBJECT: US ANGLE PROMINENT IN MIDDLE EAST COVERAGE

REF: CAIRO 12528

SUMMARY: PRESS JULY 28 CONTINUES TO REPORT DEVELOPMENTS RELATED
TO PEACE PROCESS IN FACTUAL BUT SELECTIVE MANNER, WITH
EMPHASIS ON US ROLE AND ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS, FAVORABLE
REACTION TO US MILITARY AID FOR EGYPT. END SUMMARY.

1. SETTLEMENTS. AHARAM POINTED TO US/ISRAELI DIFFERENCES
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BASED ON USG CRITICISM OF ISRAELI SETTLEMENT ACTIVITY.
REPORTED PRESIDENT CARTER STATED SECRETARY VANCE SPEAKING
"ON HIS BEHALF" IN EXPRESSING DISAPPOINTMENT BUT THAT
PRESIDENT CONTINUES TO BE OPTIMISTIC ON PROSPECTS FOR
PEACE. STORY ADDED SENATOR METZENBAUM COMMENT THAT
CONGRESS FINDS BEGIN DECISION RECOGNIZE NEW SETTLEMENTS

"UNACCEPTABLE". REPEATED SECRETARY'S OBSERVATION THAT SETTLEMENTS ARE "IN VIOLATION OF INTERNATIONAL LAW AND OBSTACLE TO PEACE". PAPERS ALSO NOTED BRIEFLY UK AND UN SYG STATEMENTS OF REGRET OVER ISRAELI SETTLEMENT POLICY. AS OBSTACLE TO RECONVENING MEPC. PRESS NOTED WITHOUT COMMENT BEGIN'S RESPONSE IN KNESSET AND HIS DEFENSE OF RECOGNITION OF THREE WEST BANK SETTLEMENTS. NO MENTION IN PRESS OF CORNERSTONE LAYING OF TWO SETTLEMENTS IN RAFAH SALEINT SCHEDULED FOR JULY 27 (PARA 3, TEL AVIV 5533).

2. MILITARY AID FOR EGYPT. PRESS PROMINENTLY REPORTED THAT USG PREPARED TO SELL DEFENSIVE WEAPONRY TO EGYPT AND SUDAN AND CITED DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S COMMENT ABOUT SADAT'S ENDING OF SOVIET ARMS RELATIONSHIP AND DESIRE TO DIVERSIFY SOURCES OF ARMS. "DEPARTMENT SOURCE" CITED FOR REPORT THAT NEGOTIATIONS HAVE ALREADY BEGUN WITH GOE ON 200 MILLION DOLLAR PACKAGE TO INCLUDE FOURTEEN C-130'S AND UNSPECIFIED NUMBER DRONE RECONNAISSANCE AIRCRAFT. AHRAH STORY FOLLOWED BY COMMENTARY, WHICH PROBABLY OFFICIALLY INSPIRED. WRITER STATES THAT "THIS NEW POLICY OF USG CONSIDERED MOST IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENT SINCE US REJECTION OF ARMS FOR EGYPT IN 1950'S. "REJECTION LED EGYPT TO SOVIET ARMS DEAL AND SUBSEQUENT DEVELOPMENTS WHICH RESULTED IN INCREASED SOVIET INFLUENCE. FOR MANY REASONS EGYPT NEEDS ARMS AND WILL FOR A LONG TIME. EGYPT WELCOMES ARMS PROVIDED THEY DO NOT COME IN TROJAN HORSE BY WHICH FOREIGN INFLUENCE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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INFILTRATES AS WAS CASE IN PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE. AMERICA AND WORLD PUBLIC OPINION MUST REALIZE EXTENT TO WHICH EGYPT AND ITS PEOPLE ARE MODERATE. IF USG WILLING TO REALIZE PEACE IN THE AREA AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, US MUST SERIOUSLY PURSUE THIS NEW TENDENCY BECAUSE A STRONG EGYPT WILL BE MORE COMMITTED TO MODERATION AND PEACE. IT IS CERTAIN THAT ZIONIST PROPAGANDA GENIUSES WILL TRY HARD TO STOP THIS NEW US TENDENCY, BUT AMERICANS MUST REALIZE THAT A STRONG EGYPT CAN PROVIDE A LASTING AND JUST PEACE. FURTHERMORE, SUPPLY OF ARMS WILL CONTRIBUTE TO FOILING CONSPIRACY WHICH AIM AT RETURNING EGYPT TO POLICY OF INTERNATIONAL POLARIZATION. NO OTHER EDITORIAL COMMENT.

3. COMMENT: GOE CONTINUING MAINTAIN OFFICIAL SILENCE ON PEACE PROSPECTS AND OFFICIALLY-GUIDED MEDIA SELECTING THOSE NEWS ITEMS WHICH ARE MOST FAVORABLE TO CURRENT GOE PRE-VANCE VISIT STANCE OF "FULL CONFIDENCE" IN PRESIDENT CARTER. APPROVAL BY AHRAH OVER NEW US MILITARY AID IS REAL ALTHOUGH EGYPTIANS WILL CONSIDER IT VERY MODEST IN COMPARISON WITH QUANTITIES ALREADY OBTAINED BY ISRAEL. US-ISRAELI PUBLIC DIFFERENCES OVER WEST BANK SETTLEMENTS HAVE, IN GOE'S VIEW, PROBABLY OBIVIATED NEED

FOR GOE TO REACT IMMEDIATELY. HOWEVER, NEW SETTLEMENTS
IN RAFAH SALIENT ARE OF MORE IMMEDIATE AND DIRECT CONCERN
TO EGYPTIANS AND LIKELY TO PROVOKE PUBLIC REACTION.
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